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PLOWSHARE PREPAREDNESS.

Governor Ferguson believes the conversion of the tenant farmers of the country into land owners is the most needed preparedness confronting this nation. He not only believes in beating the swords into plowshares and the spears into pruning hooks, but also regrets the huge loan made the allies was not made on the lands of the country in aiding tenant farmers in the purchase of homes. In addressing a meeting of business men in New York this week, Governor Ferguson said:

"The war loans we have made abroad if placed at home on rural land would have given every tenant farmer in the United States capital that would have put him well on the road to home ownership. This is the kind of preparedness we must use to further peace and prosperity within, whatever external clouds may threaten from without."

The governor said that, in his opinion, there was no denying the growth of socialistic sentiment in this country. That sentiment, he added, favored the kind of preparedness he had named.

The most pathetic thing in the world is a mother who, when Christmas approaches, finds herself unable because of poverty to find funds with which to furnish her dear little children with Santa Claus. Next to the agony of the mother, is the sorrow of the little children whose faith in the

goodness of old Santa is shaken by the reality of grim want. The season of Christmas is approaching, when it will be a pleasure to everyone who can to play Santa Claus to some such family. (Columbus Enterprise.)

An empty Christmas stocking is the greatest tragedy in the life of a child. It matters not what disappointments it may have in later years, nor how bitter the dreary, it can not equal the pangs of sorrow and regret that came to it on a bright and joyful Christmas morn, when it was discovered that the stocking suspended the night before in eager expectation of the visit from old Santa Claus, still hung limp and dejected. If we were possessed of the wealth of the Carnegies and the Rockefellers, instead of endowing colleges and building libraries, we would see to it if possible that the stockings of no bright-faced American child went unfilled on Christmas morning.—Denison Herald.

Governor James E. Ferguson is in New York and delivered an address Friday before the Association of Life Insurance Presidents. These life insurance presidents residing in New York are the men vitally interested in the Gibson bill before the Texas legislature which sought to permit them, and their companies to again enter the state for the purpose of doing business. Governor Ferguson fought, bled and died for the passage of the Gibson bill, but could not put it over. It is hoped his visit to the presidents of these outlawed insurance companies will not inspire him to again try to force the passage of the Gibson bill.

As we understand it, Germany is ready to grant peace if England will restore the colonies and surrender her fleet, and if the allies together will pay a cash indemnity of \$25,000,000,000. And the allies are willing to make peace based upon a cash indemnity from the central allies of \$25,000,000,000 and the partition of all Teutonic territory among the entente allies.—Houston Post.

It looks like so small a difference as that would be easy of adjustment. Especially as neither side is claiming much, only the earth and the fullness thereof.

If the bomb throwers and fire brands are not checked they will soon put an embargo on the shipment of arms and ammunition from the United States to the warring nations of Europe.

When you find that the truth is in your way, you may be sure that you are on the wrong road.

It is indeed remarkable that public spirited members of the city council who have donated the sum of \$50 to the Christmas charity fund of the Knights of Pythias. An exceedingly liberal spirit is also being shown by the societies, churches and individuals of the city.

ATTEMPTING THE IMPOSSIBLE.

The state will place on the market approximately 1,500,000 acres of school land on Jan. 1, 1916. This would give to the landless men of the state 9,375 home tracts of 160 acres each, if we had a system of rural credits that would enable the purchasers to improve their holdings. The state will sell it to them on long time credit at low rates of interest. But without the money to improve the land, the landless man would find it a difficult problem to make a living on it and meet his payments regularly. Some purchasers might do so, but experience has proven that many would not.—Houston Post.

What kind of rural credit system could you have that would enable a man to improve a farm bought from the state on long time and against which the state retains a vendor's lien to secure the payment of purchase money? He could not put up the land to secure the credit for the improvement, as the state holds a prior lien, then what could he put up? A man can not lift himself over the fence by his boot straps, yet some people seem to think laws could be passed that would enable him to do that very thing.

Every tub must stand on its own bottom and the state can not stand on any man's bottom for him. Legislation giving him an equal break with his fellows and surrounding him with the most favorable conditions is all the state can do. He must work out his own salvation.

Hard work, strict economy and making a living at home is the only way any man has ever yet paid for a home and it is the only way one ever will be paid for.

WISE AND OTHERWISE.

To be idle is to be vicious.—Rambler.

A few strong instincts and a few plain rules.—Wordsworth.

There's not a joy the world can give like that it takes away.—Lord Byron.

"Do you enjoy Brahms?" "Can't say I ever tried it. Anyhow, I don't care particularly for any of those pat-

ented breakfast foods."—Detroit Free Press.

"Been mending your political fences?" "No," said Senator Sorghum; "only whitewashing 'em."—Washington Star.

"The lawyer next door has been forced into bankruptcy with big liabilities but no assets to speak of." "Why, a lawyer's assets are his liabilities."—Baltimore American.

In the days of old when knights were bold a jilted maiden drowned herself. But nowadays it is the craze to sue the jilter for his pelf.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"I bought this arm chair on the installment plan." "Easy terms?" "Rather! A dollar down and a dollar whenever the collector can catch me."—Boston Transcript.

"It is only a question of time when the suffragists will sweep the country." "Nonsense! Not half of them know how to handle a broom."—New York American.

The Embarrassed One—You've saved my life with the liver. I'll owe you an eternal debt of gratitude. The Generous One—I don't care how long you owe me your gratitude, but as to the five simoleons—that's another matter.—Punch Bowl.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

Sometimes it is the police that teach a man to reform.

Many people would rather believe a lie than the truth.

He is a wise man who knows his opportunity when he sees it.

When a man tries to stand on his dignity he puts his foot in it.

Few women need worry about the hereafter—therefore they all do.

A woman always boasts of the virtues she practices because she has to.

Never judge a man by his big automobile; it is possible that it isn't paid for.

Some people can travel almost as far on their nerve as others can on an excursion ticket.

Many a girl has found herself in the spinster class because she was too clever at the wrong time.

Choking Him Off.

In his book "Gridiron Nights" Arthur W. Dunn says that the Gridiron club always made use of Chauncey M. Depew for any purpose whatsoever. At a dinner in 1899 General H. V. Boynton, the president of the club, made an introductory speech about Senator Depew, indicating that he was to be called upon. Just as everybody was expecting the senator to arise and while he was getting his preparatory smile ready there stalked into the room a very large sized book labeled "Depew's Jokes." On the other side was a picture of Depew laughing vociferously. When the uproar subsided Boynton went on with his speech and introduced somebody else.

A little later, however, he made a speech in which he really introduced Depew, and the senator arose. But before he could say a word a phonograph began grinding out some of Depew's old stories, and the senator was obliged to sit down. Later in the evening, however, he had an opportunity to speak, but he began gingerly, expecting some new trap.

Tale of Three Nations.

Some gentlemen were once dining together at a hotel when the conversation turned upon the characteristics of different nationalities. "Now," said one of them, "here are three waiters. I will put to each of them the same question, and I will wager a cigar they will give an entirely different answer."

"Agreed!" "Now, Tom," as the first entered with the soup, "what would you take to sit outside the dome of St. Paul's all night?"

"A guinea, sir," answered Tom, with business promptitude.

Enter Sandy with the second course, the same question being asked. Sandy (cautiously, "An' what wad ye gie?"

Enter Pat with the third course. "Now, Pat, what would you take to sit outside the dome of St. Paul's all night?"

"Faith, and I'd take a bad cowlid!" The gentleman won the wager.—London Mail.

Progress.

The first day he said, "She is the most beautiful girl I have ever seen."

The second day, "She is one of the most beautiful girls I have ever seen."

Third, "She is certainly a beautiful girl."

Fourth, "She is beautiful."

Fifth, "She is rather beautiful."

Sixth, "At times she is beautiful."

Seventh, "She has beauty."

Eighth, "Beautiful? Well, yes."

Ninth, "I shouldn't say she is beautiful, but there are times when she is good looking."

Tenth, "For the past ten days I have been trying to find out whether she has any brains or not. I have decided that she has not. And I remember very well the first time I met her I thought her beautiful!—Life.

The Original Wedding Cake.

Our wedding cake is the remains of a custom whereby a Roman bride held in her left hand three wheat ears, and many centuries later an English bride wore on her head a chaplet of wheat. The attendant girls threw corn, either in grains or in small bits of biscuit or cake, upon the heads of the newly married couple, and the guests picked up the pieces and ate them. Such was the beginning of the wedding cake, which did not come into general use until the eighteenth century and was then composed of solid blocks laid together and iced all over with sugar so that when the outer crust was broken over the bride's head the cakes inside fell on the floor and they were then distributed among the company.

Travels of a Sapphire.

A sapphire of good quality which was cut into a gem weighing one and three-eighths carats was discovered in the gravel along the shore of Lake Okoboji, Dickinson county, Ia., in 1914. It is described as resembling a piece of blue bottle glass worn round and smooth by attrition and is stated to be the cornflower blue variety and to have a good, velvety luster. This gem was probably transported to the Lake Okoboji region by ice during the glacial period along with a large variety of other minerals and rocks, and its original home can only be surmised.—United States Geological Survey.

Qualified.

"We want some one to play Samson," explained the movie manager. "Do you think you could wreck the temple?"

"Can I? Well, I've been a baggage-man for eleven years."—Buffalo Express.

The Heyden.

The word heyden, now applied exclusively to a noisy young woman, formerly denoted a person of like character, but of either sex.

Think well over your important steps in life and, having made up your mind, never look behind.

Austria's Historic Crown.

The crown donned by the monarch of Austria, which was made originally for Stephen of Hungary some eight centuries ago, has been stolen, lost or pawned.

One occasion it was pilfered by a queen who fled across the frozen Danube with it, and there, being in need of ready cash, she pawned it for 2,800 ducats. When it was finally traced and recovered it was placed in a fortress in Hungary and guarded night and day.

At the time of the revolution it was buried in a forest to prevent its being annexed by the Austrians, and it remained under the soil for nearly a hundred years. The crown is adorned with fifty-three fine sapphires, fifty good sized rubies, one emerald and 338 pearls. The gems are set in a mass of pure gold, and the crown weighs altogether about fourteen pounds.—Exchange.

WARNING TO THE PEOPLE!

Don't Be Misled By Fictitious Signs That Are Misleading When You Visit

OUR BIG YEAR-END CHRISTMAS SALE

Hundreds of Bryan and Brazos County People Attended This Big Selling Event Thursday and Thousands Are Coming. We are selling NEW MERCHANDISE, not accumulations that are Tinged With Age and Shelf Wear.

THE BIG SALE CONTINUES UNTIL FRIDAY, 24

Come Every Day. Only Competent Sales People to Serve You. Money Refunded on Any Article Not Desirable, Except Cut Goods

SAM B. WILSON & CO.